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LETTER DATED 2 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that, despite its widely publicized announcements of a cease-fire, the Armenian side has nevertheless continued its offensive in the south-west of Azerbaijan.

Over the last few days of October Armenian combat formations continued their advance and occupied almost the entire territory of the Zangelan district of the Azerbaijani Republic. Sixty-two settlements have been seized, including the district centre, the town of Zangelan.

The civilian population of the Zangelan district, as well as refugees who entered its territory from the adjacent Jäbrayyl, Kubatly, Lachyn and Füzuli districts of Azerbaijan which had previously been occupied by the Armenian army, have assembled on the Azerbaijani-Iranian frontier and, using any means available, are attempting to cross over into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

There have been many victims among the civilian population. The Zangelan district of Azerbaijan and other occupied Azerbaijani territories have been subjected to an exhaustive campaign of ethnic cleansing.

The Armenian troops are also pursuing the "scorched earth" tactic, laying waste and burning down entire settlements. On 1 November 1993 the Los Angeles Times reported: "Widespread arson by the Armenians was confirmed by Mahmoud Said, chief of the U.N. mission in Azerbaijan, who drove 20 miles along the river on the Iranian side Friday and Saturday. 'The Azerbaijani side of the border was in flames', he said. Along that whole stretch of riverbank, 'we could see entire villages burning just 500 meters from the barbed wire'."

Throughout the day on 31 October, Armenian armed forces made repeated attempts to penetrate deeper into the territory of Azerbaijan in the direction of the town of Beylagan.

The Armenian side makes no attempt to conceal its aggressive intentions vis-à-vis Azerbaijani territories, openly assailing the sovereignty of Azerbaijan. The Permanent Mission of Armenia is disseminating the statement of Mr. Karen Baburian, "Chairman of the Parliament of the Nagorny Karabakh

Republic" (S/26645, annex) - a republic which does not exist in the territory of the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic. At the same time, in the "statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia regarding United Nations Security Council resolution 874 (1993)" (S/26612, annex), it was stressed that "Armenia continues to reject any language in the resolution which may prejudice the outcome of the Minsk Conference. The CSCE Minsk process, which this resolution endorses unreservedly, has been based on the universal agreement that the political status of Nagorny Karabakh will be determined through negotiations at the Minsk Conference."

It is evident that a policy of "double standards" is also being successfully pursued in Armenia, otherwise the above-mentioned statement to the Security Council would not have contained what is in effect a refusal to take the elementary step in accordance with international law of confirming that Nagorny Karabakh is part of the Azerbaijani Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires